Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for encoding wide striped cells that carry packets of data across stripes, comprising:

(a) encoding an initial block of a first wide striped cell with initial cell encoding information; [and]

(b) distributing initial bytes of packet data into available space in the initial block of the first wide striped cell; and[.]

(c) encoding the first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said initial cell encoding information includes control information and state information, and said initial block of the first wide striped cell comprises five subblocks corresponding to five stripes, and wherein each subblock includes identical control information and identical state information.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding reserve information to available bytes at the end of the initial block of the first wide striped cell.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising distributing remaining bytes of packet data across one or more blocks in the first wide striped cell until an end of packet condition is reached or a maximum cell size is reached.

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5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(c) encoding the first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information, the end of packet information varying depending upon a set of end of packet conditions including whether the end of packet occurs at the end of an initial block, at the end of the initial block, within a subsequent block, at a block boundary, or at a cell boundary.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said initial block encoding step (a), at the start of a packet, encodes an initial twenty byte block of a start wide striped cell having twenty bytes of data distributed across five stripes as follows:

Block	Stripe 1	Stripe 2	Stripe 3	Stripe 4	Stripe 5
1	KO STATE DATAO DATA1	KO STATE DATA2 DATA3	KO STATE DATA4 DATA5	KO STATE DATA6 DATA7	KO STATE RES RES

where, KO is one byte representing a special control character indicative of a cell start, STATE is one byte of state information, DATAO-DATA7 represent eight bytes of payload data, and RES is one reserved byte.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said encoding step (c) encodes the first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information that varies depending upon the degree to which data has filled a wide striped cell.

8.   (Currently Amended) A system for encoding wide striped cells that carry packets of data across stripes, comprising:

(a) means for encoding an initial block of a first wide striped cell with initial cell encoding information; [and]

(b) means for distributing initial bytes of packet data into available space in the initial block of the first wide striped cell; and[.]

(c) means for encoding the first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said initial cell encoding information includes control information and state information, and said initial block of the first wide striped cell comprises five subblocks corresponding to five stripes, and wherein each subblock includes identical control information and identical state information.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for adding reserve information to available bytes at the end of the initial block of the first wide striped cell.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for distributing remaining bytes of packet data across one or more blocks in the first wide striped cell until an end of packet condition is reached or a maximum cell size is reached.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

(c) means for encoding the first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information, the end of packet information varying depending upon a set of end of packet conditions including whether the end of packet occurs at the end of an initial block, at the end of the initial block, within a subsequent block, at a block boundary, or at a cell boundary.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said initial block encoding means (a),

at the start of a packet, encodes an initial twenty byte block of a start wide striped cell having

twenty bytes of data distributed across five stripes as follows:

Block	Stripe 1	Stripe 2	Stripe 3	Stripe 4	Stripe 5
1	KO STATE DATAO DATA1	KO STATE DATA2 DATA3	KO STATE DATA4 DATA5	KO STATE DATA6 DATA'7	KO STATE RES RES

where, KO is one byte representing a special control character indicative of a cell start, STATE

is one byte of state information, DATAO-DATA7 represent eight bytes of payload data, and

RES is one reserved byte.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said encoding means (c) encodes the

first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information that varies

depending upon the degree to which data has filled a wide striped cell.

15.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the end of packet information varies

depending upon a set of end packet conditions.

16.   (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said end of packet conditions include

where the end of packet occurs.

17.   (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the end of packet information varies

depending upon a set of end packet conditions.

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18.   (New) The system of claim 8, wherein said end of packet conditions include where the end of packet occurs.

19.   (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for encoding wide striped cells that carry packets of data across stripes, the method comprising:

(a) encoding an initial block of a first wide striped cell with initial cell encoding information;

(b) distributing initial bytes of packet data into available space in the initial block of the first wide striped cell; and

(c) encoding the first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information.

20.   (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for encoding wide striped cells that carry packets of data across stripes, the method comprising:

(a) encoding an initial block of a first wide striped cell with initial cell encoding information;

(b) distributing initial bytes of packet data into available space in the initial block of the first wide striped cell; and

(c) encoding the first wide striped cell or another wide striped cell with end of packet information, the end of packet information varying depending upon a set of end of packet conditions including whether the end of packet occurs at the end of the initial block, within a subsequent block, at a block boundary, or at a cell boundary.